REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 is in independent form.

Claim 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,648,393 to Milnar et al. The Examiner states that Milnar et al. teaches an assembly comprising a front latch mechanism (50) having a support plate (22) and a rear latch mechanism (48) having a mounting plate (20). The rear latch mechanism includes a pair of front (20) and rear (48) latch plates. The assembly includes a release cam member (52) operatively coupled between the front and rear latch plates. The front latch mechanism includes a latch plate (46) to the support plate. The assembly further comprises a connecting link (74) extending between the release cam member and the latch plate.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to set forth a riser assembly (24) for selectively coupling a seat assembly (10) to a front slide rail (28) and rear slide rail (30) on the floor of an automotive vehicle, said riser assembly including: a front latch mechanism (62) adapted to be operatively coupled to the front slide rail (28), said front latch mechanism (62) having a support plate (66) for supporting said riser assembly on the front slide rail (28); a rear latch mechanism (64) adapted to be operatively coupled to the rear slide rail (30), said rear latch mechanism (64) having a mounting plate (100) for supporting said riser assembly on the rear slide rail (30) and a pair of opposing front and rear latch plates (110, 112) independently pivotally coupled to said mounting plate (100) for selectively engaging and securing said rear

latch mechanism (64) to the rear slide rail (30); and a release cam member (130) operatively coupled between said front and rear latch plates (110, 112) for simultaneously engaging and pivotally releasing said front and rear latch plates (110, 112) from engagement with the rear slide rail (30) to selectively couple said riser assembly (24) to the rear slide rail (30).

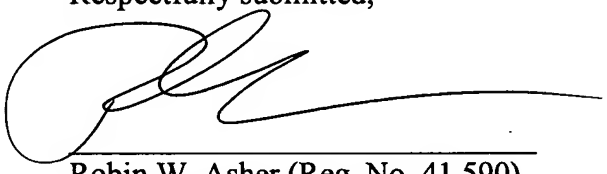
In contradistinction, in Milnar et al., the rear latch mechanism includes a fixed mounting plate (20) and a rear latch (48) for engaging and securing the rear latch mechanism to the rail (16). Milnar et al. clearly does not teach or disclose a pair of opposing front and rear latch plates (110, 112) independently pivotally coupled to said mounting plate (100) for selectively engaging and securing said rear latch mechanism (64) to the rear slide rail (30). Additionally, the release cam member (52) of Milnar et al. only engages the rear latch (48). It does not simultaneously engage and pivotally release each of the front and rear latch plates (110, 112) from engagement with the rear slide rail (30) as set forth in Applicant's invention.

Each and every feature of Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1-3 are clearly not shown in Milnar et al., and therefore, the rejection under 35 USC 102 must be withdrawn.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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